(b) if so, reasons for the inordinate delay; and

(c) the number of such projects and their period of delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main reasons for delay or incompletion of projects are:—

(i) Death or retirement of Principal Investigator.

(ii) Pre-occupation of Principal Investigators with other priority work.

(iii) Non-availability of supporting project staff.

(iv) Practical difficulties in the field.

(c) Out of 73 projects in hand, the delay in the timely completion ranges from 1-10 years in 35 projects.

Steamer Service along Konkan coast

4153. SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for Government to withdraw the steamer service plying along the Konkan Coast during the last summer season;

(b) whether it is a fact that these steamers will be discontinued because they are likely to be scrapped; and

(c) if so, what alternative arrangements have been made by Government to solve this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) The steamer service plying along the Konkan coast was withdrawn for sometime during the last summer season as the vessels were required for urgent use elsewhere.

(b) and (c) The vessels are old enough to be scrapped. The arrangements as existed during the last summer season can continue if the State Governments of Maharashtra and Goa agree to meet the operational losses for running the service as well as the costs of the Annual Passenger Survey needed to continue the old vessels in service.

Introduction of new text books by NCERT

4154. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NCERT have a plan to introduce new text books for some classes for the 1989-90 session;

(b) if so, for which classes these books are being issued and the number of titles to be so issued; and

(c) what is the stage of preparation and by when the new titles would be available in the open market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Revised text-books for classes V, VIII, X and XII are to be provided for the 1989-90 academic session. Out of these, 24 will be completely new textbooks.

(c) All the manuscripts are in the final stage of preparation and all these titles are expected to be available for the academic session 1989-90.

Celebration of the International Literacy Year in 1990

4155. SHRI PAWAN KUMAN BANSAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any special plan of action has been drawn up to celebrate the International Literacy Year in 1990; and

(b) if so, what are the details therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND